

REMARKS

The Application accompanying this Preliminary Amendment is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/957,739, filed September 21, 2001 (the '739 Application). By this Preliminary Amendment the Specification and Claims of the '739 Application are amended as follows.

Specifically, the Specification has been amended to recite a reference to the U.S. Provisional Patent Application and the '739 Application from which the present application claims benefit of a priority. In the present application, Claims 1-18 and 29 of the '739 Application were cancelled as these claims are directed to a previously elected invention, Claims 19-28 and 30 of the '739 Application have been amended and renumbered as described below, and no new claims have been added. As a result of the renumbering, Claims 19-29 and 31 are presented and at issue. No new matter has been added.

With respect to the renumbering of claims, in a Restriction Requirement issued against the '739 Application a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Examiner noted that the '739 Application as filed included two claims inadvertently numbered as Claim 19. Applicant submits herewith claim amendments to remove this inadvertent error and to renumber Claims 19-30 as Claims 19-31. Some amendments to claim dependencies within the newly renumbered claims resulted. Additionally, original Claim 29 (renumbered Claim 30) was cancelled as it is directed to a previously elected invention. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 19-29 and 31, as now written, are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Other Documents:

Appended to this Preliminary Amendment is an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and Form PTO-1449. The IDS makes of record documents identified in the '739 Application, the parent of this divisional patent application. The present claims are believed patentable over the art of record. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Ser. No.: To be Assigned
Art Unit: To be Assigned

Atty. Docket No.: 102170-300

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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